

4. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the tip part of one of the reel teeth and the break teeth contacts a bottom surface of the base portion of an opposite ~~side~~ tooth of the tip part.

5. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein a height H (a distance from the base portion to the end terminal of the taper portion) of the vertical portion is satisfied with the following equation, provided that a height of the of each of said teeth from said base portion to said tip part is defined by H1:

$$0.6 \times H1 \leq H \leq 0.95 \times H1.$$

6. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein upon the mating, the tip part is not contacted with a bottom surface of the base portion at the opposite ~~side~~ tooth while the vertical portion is contacted with the vertical portion at the opposite ~~side~~ tooth.

7. (Original) The tape cartridge according to Claim 6, wherein a contact height ΔH at a mutually contacting portion between said vertical portions is satisfied with following equation, provided that a height from said base portion to the tip part is defined by H1:

$$0.2 \times H1 \leq \Delta H \leq 0.9 \times H1.$$

8. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the teeth of the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are circularly arranged.

9. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the tip part of each of the teeth is comprises one of an apex and a flat portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the tip part of one of the reel teeth and the break teeth contacts a bottom surface of the base portion of an opposite side tooth of the tip part.

11. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 10, wherein a height H (a distance from the base portion to the end terminal of the taper portion) of the vertical portion is satisfied with the following equation, provided that a height of the of each of said teeth from said base portion to said tip part is defined by H1:

$$0.6 \times H1 \leq H \leq 0.95 \times H1.$$

12. (Currently Amended) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein upon the mating, the tip part is not contacted with a bottom surface of the base portion at the opposite side tooth while the vertical portion is contacted with the vertical portion at the opposite side tooth.

13. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein a contact height ΔH at a mutually contacting portion between said vertical portions is satisfied with following equation, provided that a height from said base portion to the tip part is defined by H1:

$$0.2 \times H1 \leq \Delta H \leq 0.9 \times H1.$$

14. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the teeth of the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are circularly arranged.